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Three historic home walking
paths in Iron Mountain

Three Historic Home Walking Paths in

JOHN T. JONES RESIDENCE. BUILT IN 1290

Iron Mountain

This is a walk-by tour only. The interiors of the homes and their grounds are not open to the public.

Three Historic Home Walking Paths in Iron Mountain

The homes described in this booklet are representative of the architectural styles prevalent in Iron Mountain from its birth through the early years of the twentieth century. Homes selected were chosen mainly due to the architectural purity they have maintained through the years. Many of these homes also belonged to people who played an important role in the development of Iron Mountain.

Space did not permit the inclusion of all architecturally significant homes in Iron Mountain, and while walking on the three paths, you will note other worthy examples of early architecture.

None of the homes are open. The tours herein described are only "walk-by" tours. Permission has been granted by the present owners of these houses for people to walk by and admire them, but none of the homes or their grounds are open to the public for inspection. Please honor the commitment made with these home owners to insure the success of future home tours in our area.

Walking path "A" is on the East Side of the City, paths "B" and "C" on the West Side. The last house on the tour, under the heading "miscellaneous" (see back cover), is isolated from the walking paths but was felt to be too significant to be excluded from this pamphlet.

Sponsored by The Dickinson County Library
and The Menominee Range Historical Foundation
Museum

Produced by Bill Cummings and Dave Curtis

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PATH A:

403 East Ludington Street

Built in the spring of 1884 by Dr. J. Addison Crowell and his wife Leonora, this residence is still occupied by one of their daughters, Jeanette and a granddaughter, Leonora. Dr. Crowell and his wife came to Iron Mountain in 1882, the doctor, the second in the city, working with Dr. J. D. Cameron first at the Chapin Hospital and then in partnership in the St. George's Hospital, constructed in 1889. The Romanesque-style structure has a first floor constructed of Amberg granite, the same granite used in the construction of the Hulst School built in 1892 at the top of the hill on Madison Avenue. The second and attic stories have shingled walls. A magnificent porch embellished with spindles and constructed of Amberg granite dominates the facade with a balcony with a semi-circular opening resting atop the porch roofline. The pediment over the porch stairway and the space between the double window on the second story of the front bay are ornamented with bas relief carvings painted dark blue for accent. The pediment atop the bay contains an elliptical window, and two dormers flanking the west pediment overlook the city. Beveled leaded glass windows appear in the parlor, sitting room and dining room. The double front door leads into a vestibule and then into the reception room complete with a splendid oak bookcase/fireplace. The granite hitching posts with iron tether rings are still in place near the street. The original carriage block with CROWELL carved on the front is now on the west side of the house. This home is the first Iron Mountain residence to be listed as a Michigan State Historic Site.

411 East "B" Street

Built around the turn of the century, the Henry Levy home exhibits many characteristics found in the Victorian Queen Anne style. An enclosed balcony showing Turkish or Moorish influence occupies the second story of the turret, complete with baluster-turned supports and gingerbread cutouts. The hip roof and the protruding double window on the second floor with quarter sunbursts flanking the windows on the gable and at the base of the extension are original characteristics of the house. Mr. Levy, a local merchant, lived here with his wife Celia for many years, and his name is incised in the front sidewalk. Mr. Levy owned and operated the Mandel Levy Company, later the Levy-Unger Company, located in the present Western Auto building on Stephenson Avenue, carrying a complete line of general merchandise.

817, 821, 825 and 829 East "B" Street

These four houses were moved to their present site from the vicinity of the Iron Mountain Football Stadium in the Lawndale Addition on the lower west side. At the time the Pewabic Mine was operating in the early decades of the 1900's when E. F. Brown was part owner, the houses were occupied respectively by: 817-Charles Bohman, a master mechanic; 821-Morris Danielson (name later changed to Donaldson), a foreman of the blacksmith shop; 825-Edward Lord, a mine captain, and Charles Mattson, a shift boss; and 829-John Olson, who worked in the mine laboratory. Moving houses was a frequent undertaking in the early days of Iron Mountain, when land was shifting at times due to mining operations. The homes retain many of their original architectural features, such as the bay window and fan window on the facade, linking them with the Carpenter Gothic style. Notice that all four are constructed from the same basic plan.

837 East "B" Street

This building was constructed by the Pewabic Mining Company in 1893 as a hospital for its employees and their families. Two two-story bays dominate north and west sides of the structure which was originally covered with clapboard siding. The porch and door on the east side of the house served as the hospital entrance. This porch retains its turned posts and the latticework, accentuated with spindles and scrolled brackets. The front porch, which did not extend to the east end of the house originally, was similarly ornamented. Dr. James Ashley Bangs and his wife, Mrs. Bessie (Hosking) Wood, resided with their family in the west portion of the structure when the building was used as the mine's hospital. Dr. Bangs came to Iron Mountain from Ironwood, Mich. in April, 1893, and died in 1915, having served as one of the area's earliest doctors.

700 East "C" Street

Even though this structure has been tastefully enlarged in keeping with the original architectural style, this home remains an excellent area example of the Victorian Carpenter Gothic style, set off by a magnificently landscaped garden. The front porch roof is supported by two groups of three turned posts, and the bay on the west side is ornamented with recessed wainscotting on both top and bottom. The original house was constructed in the 1890's. An early owner of the home was J. A. Sundstrom, a hardware merchant. A later owner was Abraham Buchman of Buchman's Drug Store.

401 East "C" Street

Built by Dr. John D. Cameron and his wife in 1898, this gracious home in the Victorian Queen Anne style has been maintained as it originally looked by its second owners. The facade is dominated by a tremendous curved front porch with fluted Doric capitals and a magnificent spindle-turned railing. An egg-and-dart molding ornaments the cornice area of the porch. A two-story truncated turret is located on the northwest corner, and the front dormer embellishes the hip roof with three windows separated by Ionic pilasters, and with paired pilasters at each corner. A three-story bay on the west side boasts a recessed three-paneled window in the third story flanked by short Doric columns. Exquisite stained glass windows light the library, dining room, reception hall and staircase. Dr. Cameron and his wife arrived in Iron Mountain in 1882, the doctor being the first to practice in the newly-formed community. He and his partner, Dr. J. Addison Crowell, served as doctors for the Chapin Mine Hospital, and in 1889 opened the St. George's Hospital, the area's first public hospital, on Merritt Avenue near Fleshiem Street. Dr. Cameron died in the early 1900's, and Mrs. Cameron maintained the house alone for forty years. She had the home painted dark green, and often said she would like to paint it black, but lacked the courage.

PATH B:

501 Kent Street

This house, one of the earliest in Iron Mountain, was built in the early 1880's by Gust Blixt, an early miner, and his wife Tilda. The house is architecturally patterned after the traditional New England saltbox houses. The building was restored in 1975 by Jeff Mitchell, then a building trades major at Michigan Technological University, following guidelines set up by the Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum.

106 North Carpenter

Even though this structure has been remodeled to serve as a private dining club, the Chippewa Club, the architectural features it retains and its role in Iron Mountain's history make it significant. The two-story structure is capped by a hip roof, and exhibits elements of Queen Anne style. Two triple window dormers overlook the city on the east and south sides. The dormer windows are flanked by pilasters and their pediments are surfaced with fish-scale shingles. Egg-and-dart type molding embellish the windows. A spectacular stained-glass window lights the stairway. The house was originally built in 1898-99 by the Chapin Mining Company as the general manager's home. The house was first occupied by James McNaughton and, after his resignation in 1901, by O. C. Davidson.

518 West Brown Street

John Russell and his wife Marion Burdon built this fine example of Carpenter Gothic in 1898. The facade is dominated by a front porch which also extends across a part of the east wall, with turned supports ornamented with scrolled brackets and a spindle-turned railing. The gables are covered with fish scale cedar shingles and low wooden pyramidal squares level with the roofline accentuate the front gable. The parlor boasts a sunburst stained glass window. Mr. Russell came to Iron Mountain in about 1890 from Chicago, where he worked for a grocery firm. He was sent here to take over a failing grocery business in debt to his employers, but, due to his love for fishing and hunting, he bought the business instead. His general store was located on the corner of Merritt Avenue and Brown Street and was the first brick building in Iron Mountain. Since his store was located near the St. Paul railroad tracks, he sold grain and feed wholesale directly from the boxcars. Mrs. Russell was the first principal of the Chapin School. The Russells raised two daughters, Adelaide and Jean. Adelaide Russell still resides in the home in which she grew up.

604 West Brown Street

Built in about 1890 by Herbert Armstrong, this home exemplifies the Queen Anne Style, and also exhibits some of the Swiss Chalet motifs which often appear in Victorian architecture. The facade and the east side of the home are dominated by two-story bays, the corners of which are ornamented by brackets with ball turnings as finials at the second story floor level. Two leaded glass windows grace the front entrance, and another is located in the parlor. A stained glass window is contained in the lower window of the east bay. The gables are covered with fish-scale cedar shingles, and the hip roof also exemplifies the Queen Anne styling, ornamented with finials at the gable peaks and smaller ornamentation along the roofline. The home is surrounded by the original wrought iron fence. Mr. Armstrong was a lumberman and surveyor, and is credited as being the man who encouraged E. G. Kingsford to come to the Iron Mountain area as a timber cruiser. Of course, Mr. Kingsford was the man who brought Henry Ford to this area, his wife being Mr. Ford's cousin. Mr. Armstrong developed and sold lots in the Brown Street area in the 1890's. The home was later owned by the William Cudlip family. When he died on September 24, 1952, he was the oldest living resident of Iron Mountain, as he came here with his family in 1879. Mr. Cudlip worked for the Morris and Company, meatpackers, as a salesman and later manager in this area. He was president of the First National Bank from the mid-1920's until his death. His wife, Luella Byrnes, was one of the original teachers of the first Central School in Iron Mountain.

614 West Brown Street

An example of Carpenter Gothic, the Dr. S. Edwin Cruse home has a turret with a turned finial reigning over the facade, and was built in the early 1900's. A small amount of gingerbread ornamentation sets off the gables in the front and east sides. The windows are ornamented with a bullseye and bracket combination at the upper corners. The house is surrounded by the original wrought iron fence. Dr. Cruse bought the Lake Antoine Hotel in 1896, converting the building into a hospital for woodsmen, known as the Emergency Hospital. Until this hospital was established, injured woodsmen were transported in cold baggage cars to Menominee or Marinette for treatment.

701 West Brown Street

Built near the turn of the century, this Carpenter Gothic home retains most of its original architectural details, including the Chinese influence of the lattice work on the front stoop, which also maintains its original turned posts and scrolled brackets. The brackets which ornament the bay on the east side of the house are reminiscent of the Swiss Chalet styling, complete with the turned ball on the end of each bracket. The front door has much applied machine-carved wooden decoration and a magnificent red-stained patterned glass panel. Carl Sundstrom, a clerk for Anderson and Sundstrom, was an early resident (1902), as was Gustaf Bandt, a miner (1913).

PATH C:

501 West "B" Street

Exemplifying Carpenter Gothic, this house, built in the early 1890's, was the residence of Nathaniel B. Parmalee. Remaining architectural details include the use of wainscotting for pattern in the north and east gables and the decorative molding at the top of the second story window in the front. Mr. Parmalee was an early contractor and builder in the area, having erected some of the most substantial business blocks and residences to be found in the Upper Peninsula. He erected the Methodist Episcopal Church at the Chapin Mine location in 1881, which was the first structure built for a church within the Iron Mountain city limits and which still stands at the corner of Fourth and Chapin Streets.

520 West "B" Street

Originally built as a one-story cottage before the turn of the century by Jay W. Hoose, this house was remodeled in about 1910, incorporating the original front porch into the main structure and adding a second story. The front gable has a Palladian window, found in many Queen Anne and Colonial Revival homes, and the east gable has a demilune window. Notice the carriage porch on the east side of the building. Mr. Hoose came to Iron Mountain in 1889 from Berlin, Wisconsin, and married Gussie Olson in 1898. Mr. Hoose was a jobber and horse dealer, and also worked on railroad construction and logging. Their daughter, Thelma Flodin, still resides in the house.

300 West "C" Street

One of the oldest remaining homes in Iron Mountain, the George Frederick Seibert home, built in 1885, is one of the better examples of Carpenter Gothic in the city. Although the house has undergone some remodeling, the original porch's turned posts and spindle railings being replaced with Doric columns and dormers added, the bay window on the east side of the home with its paired scrolled brackets helps convey the flavor of true Carpenter Gothic along with the fantastic Moorish or Turkish style spindle gingerbread surrounding the enclosed balcony opening on the east side of the house. A dentated molding accentuates the curved outline of the balcony area. Mr. Seibert traveled to the area from Menominee in 1879, and can truely be considered, along with his wife Margaret, one of the earliest pioneers in Iron Mountain. Mr. Seibert, with his partner, Mr. Schaller, established the first drug store here in 1882 at the corner of Brown Street and Stephenson Avenue. This building was destroyed by fire, and Mr. Seibert then established another drug store on his own at the corner of Stephenson Avenue and Hughitt Street, a longtime landmark in the community.

217 West "E" Street

Built as a wedding gift to Dr. Henry Newkirk and his bride Mary by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Flanagan, in 1908, this home is an example of the Colonial Revival style which came into vogue around the turn of the century and lasted until World War I. Mr. Flanagan was the president of the Sagola Lumber Company, and the house was built from lumber that was milled in Sagola. The facade includes three dormers, a protruding double window on the second floor over the entrance and Palladian windows in the gable ends. The cornice is dentated, as are the smaller cornice areas in the entry, the door of which is flanked by side-lights. Note the symmetrical balance found in this facade. There are two dormers on the rear side of the roof. The original interior light fixtures, which are no longer in the house, were designed by Charles Tiffany.

1102 Carpenter Avenue

Another example of Carpenter Gothic, this home, built prior to the turn of the century, shows elaborate scroll work on the gable of the facade, fish-scale cedar shingles in the gables, brackets at the corner of the bay and decorative cutout scroll work on either side of the central bay window. The home was owned by John Bond, the originator of what is now Bond Decorating. L. J. Will, the jeweler and watchmaker, was also an owner of the home.

MISCELLANEOUS

703 Grand Boulevard (North Side)

The John T. Jones residence is an outstanding example of the Victorian Queen Anne style and was built in 1890. The house has a hip roof, and the facade is dominated by a spectacular turret with a conical roof topped with a turned finial. Originally the facade was embellished with bracket scrolls under the gable ends. The original porch was removed and replaced by the present structure which is supported by Doric columns. A friend of John T. Jones once described the home on Lake Antoine as "a large house full of little rooms--and moose heads." The Jones estate consisted of 140 acres originally, and bordered Lake Antoine. More than one thousand fruit trees comprised the orchard, and native trees of all sorts graced the grounds near the house. In addition to the main house, the complex boasted a greenhouse built from glass used in the gondola cars from the original Ferris Wheel which was exhibited at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. A tunnel connected the main house with his son's home next door. Mr. Jones came to Iron Mountain in 1883 with his wife, Rachel Milligan. He was the superintendent of the Kimberly mines throughout the Upper Peninsula. An inventor and innovator, Jones built the Ardis Furnace here in 1909, named after his daughter, one of seven children, for smelting iron ore. The ruins of this furnace are a National Historic Site and are located north on U. S. 2 near the road to Lake Antoine and the Jones residence.

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